



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diocese releases statement on Pope Francis Motu Proprio, *Traditionis Custodes*

(July 16, 2021) Kalamazoo, Mich.: The Diocese of Kalamazoo has released the following statement from Bishop Paul J. Bradley on the Motu Proprio*, *Traditionis Custodes/Guardians of the Tradition*, released today by Pope Francis. In the Motu Proprio, Pope Francis has returned the responsibility for when and where the pre-Vatican II liturgy according to the 1962 Missal may be celebrated to the local diocesan bishop, reversing an earlier Motu Proprio from Pope Benedict XVI. The new directive will have an impact on where and when the Faithful will be able to participate in the traditional Latin Mass.

“Today our Holy Father Pope Francis [issued a new Motu Proprio “Traditionis Custodes”](#) redefining the use of the pre-Vatican Missal. While this announcement came with no previous information, and I have not yet had a chance to read and study the new *Motu Proprio*, this directive of our Holy Father may raise questions and cause some confusion. As such, I ask for patience as this *Motu Proprio* is reviewed, studied and understood. Be assured I will continue to do whatever is necessary to ensure the opportunities for everyone to be able to worship in a way that will bring them into fruitful relationship with Jesus.

“I will consult with our priests who are currently celebrating according to the 1962 Missal to explore and understand the best way to move forward with this directive to assure that we are following the directive while at the same time being sensitive to the needs of our people. In the meantime, let us, and all our Faithful people, pray that ultimately we need to focus on and understand the beauty of what the Catholic Mass is, Who we meet at Mass---Jesus present to us in Word and Sacrament---and how the Mass transforms us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to all we meet.

“In light of the fact that this *Motu Proprio* takes effect immediately, and in order to provide for the needs of those parish communities in which a Mass according to the Missal of 1962 has already been scheduled, I am giving each priest serving in the Diocese of Kalamazoo ‘[authorization pro tempore](#)’ to continue celebrating the Mass according to the Missal of 1962 (cf. Art. 5 *Traditionis Custodes*). This authorization is subject to change as we all have time to study and prayerfully consider the document.”

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**Motu proprio*, (Latin: “on one’s own initiative”), in the Roman Catholic church, is a papal document personally signed by the pope to signify his special interest in the subject, less formal than constitutions and carrying no papal

seal. Its content may be instructional (e.g., on the use of plainchant), administrative (e.g., concerning a church law or the establishment of a commission), or merely to confer a special favor.

The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and has grown to include 59 parishes as well as 21 Catholic schools.